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not our botanical books be always placed in connection with the herbarium? When, for instance, one desires a volume of the *Prodromus*, is it quite fair to expect him to walk a quarter of a mile, or even to leave his special building for it? May this "growl" be not wholly ineffectual!

Brown University, Providence, R. I.

W. W. BAILEY.

Hypnum Barberi.

In a letter lately received from Mr. J. Cardob of Slenay, France, he says that Mr. Renauld has concluded that *Hypnum Barberi* Renauld, of which a description was published in the *American Naturalist*, vol. XVIII, should be referred to *Hypnum compactum* Muell. Therefore number 886 of my *Catalogue of Musci and Hepaticæ* should be struck out.

Wellesley College.

CLARA E. CUMMINGS.

Dispersion of tree-seeds.

My own observations are confirmatory of Professor Beal's note in the January *GAZETTE*. I have long held the opinion that the seeds of the birches and larches, that here spring up so freely in an open field, are distributed chiefly by means of the drifting snow, or rather by blowing along on the surface of the frozen crust.

St. Stephen, New Brunswick.

J. VROOM.

Tumble-weeds.

While speaking of "tumble-weeds" other than those of our own country, Dr. Bessey might have mentioned the curious *Crucifer*, *Anastatica Hierochuntina*, popularly known as the "Rose of Jericho," though this name is also applied to the hygrometric *Selaginellas*. It is a native of the sandy deserts of the Levant. At maturity, the leaves fall, the branches (which arise near the base) curl inwards and form a globular mass which the winds uproot and roll about at their will. On being moistened the branches straighten and the pods open. Undoubtedly this habit of "tumbling" has been acquired by these different species to secure wider dissemination.

Cambridge, Mass.

QUISQUIS.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

Synoptical Flora of North America. Supplement and Indexes to *Gamopetalæ*. Asa Gray, LL.D.

The first part of this work was published in 1878, containing the *Gamopetalæ* after *Compositæ*. The part embracing the *Compositæ* appeared in 1884. As some years must elapse before the whole work can be completed it became necessary to publish a supplement to contain additions and corrections. This was especially needed for the older part, and as the first issue of it has been exhausted, the whole of *Gamopetalæ* have been bound into a single volume, with such changes as can be made upon electrotypes plates, containing also this supplement and new indexes.

It is impossible to note with any fullness the changes proposed, when the whole supplement of 80 pages is devoted to nothing else. The point of chief interest to botanists is that they can now obtain a single authoritative book which brings up to date all our knowledge of the *Gamopetalæ* of North America, and that they can obtain it at a price so reasonable that no botanist can afford to be without it.

The principal changes naturally occur in the orders after *Compositæ*. An interesting addition to our flora is *Littorella lacustris*, discovered at several northern stations by our Canadian botanists and others. The recasting of